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United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/139. It covers the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law in 2017, as well as guidelines and recommendations for the implementation of the Programme for the biennium 2018-2019 and the related administrative and financial implications.

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I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 71/139, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to carry out, in 2017, the activities specified in his report on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law (A/71/432), submitted to the Assembly at its seventy-first session. In paragraph 27 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the Programme in 2017 and, following consultations with the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, to submit recommendations regarding the Programme in subsequent years.

2. The present report provides information concerning the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in 2017, as well as the activities planned for the biennium 2018-2019 and the related administrative and financial implications.

II. Implementation of the Programme of Assistance during 2017

3. The Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Assistance.[1] The Division performs various functions, such as preparing reports of the Secretary-General and providing services to the Advisory Committee and the Sixth Committee on the related agenda item. It also maintains the website of the Programme.

A. International Law Fellowship Programme

4. The International Law Fellowship Programme provides comprehensive training by highly qualified international law scholars and practitioners from different regions and legal systems for lawyers from developing countries and countries with emerging economies, under the Programme of Assistance.[2] The fellows attend the Public International Law session at The Hague Academy of International Law and seminars organized by the Codification Division on a broad range of core subjects of international law. Study visits are also arranged for the participants.

5. The International Law Fellowship Programme was held in The Hague from 26 June to 4 August 2017. A total of 21 fellows (7 men and 14 women) were selected for the Programme,[3] which was conducted in English.

6. The Hague Academy lectures consisted of (in chronological order): "How the law operates in the international legal order: doing something and having something done" (inaugural lecture) (J. Combacau, Emeritus Professor, University of Paris II

[1] For information on other activities of the Office of Legal Affairs, see documents A/72/10, A/72/17 and A/72/74 and the Treaty Section website (https://treaties.un.org).

[2] Since 2010, as a necessary cost-saving measure to increase the number of fellowships provided through the regular budget, the Fellowship Programme in The Hague has been conducted by the Codification Division (see A/65/514, para. 12).

[3] More than 450 applications were received from 104 Member States for 21 fellowships (including 149 from Africa, 110 from Asia-Pacific, 28 from Eastern Europe and 154 from Latin America and the Caribbean). The fellowship participants were from the following Member States: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt, Fiji, Guyana, Iraq, Kenya, Lesotho, Maldives, Nepal, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The participants included lawyers working for various government offices (ministries of foreign affairs and justice, as well as parliaments) and academic institutions.

Panthéon-Assas); "Establishing norms in a kaleidoscopic world" (general course) (E. Brown Weiss, Professor, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.); "The international protection of vulnerable persons under international human rights law" (S. Perrakis, Emeritus Professor, Panteion University, Athens); "Treaties and their practice" (G. Nolte, Professor, Humboldt University, Berlin, and member, International Law Commission); "The system of reparations in the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights" (F. Novak, Professor, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru); "Economic sanctions decided and implemented outside the United Nations" (J.-M. Thouvenin, Professor, University of Paris Nanterre); "Compensation for environmental damage and depletion of natural resources: the practice of the United Nations Compensation Commission" (M. Kazazi, former Executive Head, United Nations Compensation Commission); and "'Acts of the State' in the law of responsibility: a reassessment" (A. Kanehara, Professor, Sophia University, Tokyo).

7. The seminars organized by the Codification Division consisted of (in chronological order): "Introduction to international law" (M. Kohen, Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva); "Treaty law" (S. Villalpando, Chief, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs); "International peace and security" and "The work of the International Law Commission" (H. Hassouna, member, International Law Commission, and former Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States to the United Nations); "International human rights law" (H. Duffy, Professor, University of Leiden); "International criminal law" and "International humanitarian law" (K. Riordan, Chief Judge, Court Martial of New Zealand, Judge Advocate General, Armed Forces of New Zealand, and Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington); "State responsibility" (P. Bodeau-Livinec, Professor, University of Paris Nanterre); "Movement of persons" (F. Messineo, Legal Officer, Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs); "International environmental law" and "International organizations" (L. Boisson de Chazournes, Professor, University of Geneva); "Law of the sea" (S. Trevisanut, Associate Professor of international law, University of Utrecht); "Research in international law" (Christiane Ahlborn, Associate Legal Officer, Codification Division); "International trade law" (M. M. Mbengue, Professor, University of Geneva); and "International investment law" and "Peaceful settlement of international disputes" (C. Giorgetti, Professor, University of Richmond School of Law).

8. Study visits with briefings by senior officials were arranged for the participants at the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court and the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The participants also had the opportunity to attend hearings at the International Court of Justice and at the International Criminal Court.

B. United Nations Regional Courses in International Law

9. The United Nations Regional Courses in International Law provide training by highly qualified international law scholars and practitioners on a broad range of core subjects of international law and specific subjects of particular interest to the countries in a given region.[4] The courses provide an important mechanism for expanding the international law training opportunities available to lawyers from

[4] Since 2011, the Codification Division has conducted the Regional Courses in International Law as a necessary cost-saving measure to increase the number of fellowships and better meet the increasing demand for international law training. All administrative, financial and practical arrangements, such as travel and accommodations, were previously entrusted to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, which required funding for its Professional and General Service staff members who performed those services over a period of approximately six months for each Regional Course.

developing countries, given the limited number of participants who can be accommodated in the International Law Fellowship Programme. The courses also provide participants with an opportunity to focus on contemporary issues of international law of common interest to the region, with a view to promoting greater understanding and cooperation on such issues.

1. Africa

10. The Regional Course in International Law for Africa was held at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in Addis Ababa, from 6 February to 3 March 2017. The course was conducted in English. A total of 30 participants (15 men and 15 women) attended the course, with 20 fellowship participants and 10 self-funded participants.[5]

11. The seminars for the Regional Course consisted of (in chronological order): "International peace and security" (D. Tladi, Professor, University of Pretoria, and member, International Law Commission); "Introduction to international law" (C. Greenwood, Judge, International Court of Justice); "International environmental law" (L. Boisson de Chazournes, Director, Department of International Law and International Organizations, University of Geneva); "Law of treaties" and "State responsibility" (S. Villalpando, Chief, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs); "International trade law" (M. M. Mbengue, Professor, University of Geneva); "The work of the International Law Commission" and "Democracy and Good Governance in Africa" (C. Maina Peter, Professor, University of Dar es Salaam, and member, International Law Commission), "International investment law" (J. Donoghue, Judge, International Court of Justice); "The importance of international law for Africa in the twenty-first century" and "The International Court of Justice and Africa" (A. Yusuf, Vice-President, International Court of Justice); "Law of natural resources management" (A. Kilangi, Professor, St. Augustine University of Tanzania); "Law of the sea" (S. Murphy, Professor, George Washington University Law School, and member, International Law Commission), "International humanitarian law" and "International criminal law" (K. Riordan, Chief Judge, Court Martial of New Zealand, Judge Advocate General, Armed Forces of New Zealand, and Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington); "International human rights law" (F. Viljoen, Director, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria); and "Peaceful settlement of international disputes" (B. Daly, Deputy Secretary-General and Principal Legal Counsel, Permanent Court of Arbitration). The participants also attended a briefing at the African Union on aspects of international law training and capacity-building in Africa.

2. Asia-Pacific

12. The Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific is scheduled to be held at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in Bangkok, from 20 November to 15 December 2017. The course will be conducted in English.[6]

[5] More than 250 applications were received from 43 Member States. The participants were from the following Member States: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, the Sudan, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The participants included lawyers working for various government offices (including ministries of foreign affairs and justice, as well as offices of attorneys general and presidents), regional organizations (including the African Union) and academic institutions.

[6] A total of 109 applications were received from 32 Member States. The selected participants are from the following Member States: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan, and Yemen. The selected participants included lawyers working for various government offices and academic institutions.

13. According to the planned curriculum as of the date of the present report, the following seminars will be given during the Regional Course (in chronological order): "Introduction to international law" (A. Pellet, Emeritus Professor, Université Paris Nanterre, and former member, International Law Commission); "International peace and security" and "The work of the International Law Commission" (D. Tladi, Professor, University of Pretoria, and member, International Law Commission); "International law and Asia-Pacific" (S. Chesterman, Dean and Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore); "International human rights law" (lecturer to be determined); "International humanitarian law" and "International criminal law" (K. Riordan, Chief Judge, Court Martial of New Zealand, Judge Advocate General, Armed Forces of New Zealand, and Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington); "Peaceful settlement of international disputes" (Sir M. Wood, Senior Fellow, Lauterpacht Centre, University of Cambridge, and member, International Law Commission); "Law of treaties" and "State responsibility" (S. Villalpando, Chief, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs); "International environmental law" (H. Desai, Professor and Chairman, Centre for International Legal Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University); "International trade law" and "International investment law" (M. M. Mbengue, Professor, University of Geneva); and "Law of the sea" (N. Oral, Professor, Faculty of Law, Istanbul Bilgi University, and member, International Law Commission).

3. Latin America and the Caribbean

14. The Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean was held at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in Santiago, from 24 April to 19 May 2017. The course was conducted in English and Spanish. A total of 23 participants (6 men and 17 women) attended the course, with 20 fellowship participants and 3 self-funded participants.[7]

15. The seminars for the Regional Course consisted of (in chronological order): "Introduction to international law" (J. Viñuales, Professor and Director, Cambridge Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Governance, University of Cambridge); "International humanitarian law" and "International Criminal Law" (K. Riordan, Chief Judge, Court Martial of New Zealand, Judge Advocate General, Armed Forces of New Zealand, and Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington); "International peace and security" (D. Tladi, Professor, University of Pretoria, and member, International Law Commission); "International human rights law" (M. Pinto, Dean, School of Law, University of Buenos Aires); "Law of the sea" (T. Treves, Professor, University of Milan, and former Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea); "Law and institutions of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean" (L. Yáñez, Officer-in-Charge, Secretary of the Commission, ECLAC); "The regional agreement on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean" (C. de Miguel, Head, Policies for Sustainable Development Unit, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, ECLAC); "International environmental law" (D. Bodansky, Professor, Arizona State University); "Law of treaties" and "State responsibility" (S. Villalpando, Chief, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs); "Law-making at the United Nations" (D. Stewart, Associate Legal Officer, Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs); "International trade law"

[7] A total of 104 applications were received from 23 Member States. The participants were from the following Member States: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The participants included lawyers working for various government offices (including ministries of foreign affairs and justice, as well as offices of attorneys general and presidents) and academic institutions.

(F. Morosini, Professor, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre); and "International investment law" and "Peaceful settlement of international disputes" (C. Giorgetti, Professor, University of Richmond School of Law).

4. Venues for the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law

16. Following the increase in the demand for international law training, the Codification Division has sought to identify recurring venues for the Regional Courses in International Law in order to facilitate the organization of the courses on a regular basis in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. Such venues would provide enhanced efficiency, cost savings and greater certainty with respect to the Regional Courses, without precluding the possibility of holding such a course at another location.

17. The Regional Course in International Law for Africa was successfully conducted annually in Ethiopia from 2011 to 2017. ECA provided significant in-kind contributions, including the training venue, office space for United Nations staff and lecturers, dining facilities, equipment and administrative and operational support.

18. The Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific was successfully conducted in Thailand in 1986, 2005, 2012 and 2016. ESCAP provided assistance in the organization of the Regional Course, which will be conducted, for the first time, at ESCAP, in Bangkok, in late 2017. ESCAP will provide significant in-kind contributions, including the training venue, office space for United Nations staff and lecturers, dining facilities, equipment and administrative and operational support.

19. In 2017, the Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean was conducted at ECLAC, in Santiago. ECLAC provided significant in-kind contributions, including the training venue, office space for United Nations staff and lecturers, dining facilities, equipment and administrative and operational support.

C. United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law

20. Traditional training courses offer unique advantages in terms of promoting in-depth discussions, interaction and cooperation among participants. In response to the increasing demand for international law training that could not be met solely by its traditional training courses, the Codification Division created the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law in 2008. The Library gives the United Nations the capacity to provide, at a relatively low cost, high-quality training to an unlimited number of individuals and institutions around the world, free of charge through the Internet.

21. The Audiovisual Library is a virtual training and research centre with more than 400 leading international law scholars, judges and practitioners from different countries and legal systems who contribute to its three pillars: the Lecture Series, the Historic Archives and the Research Library. The Lecture Series contains nearly 500 lectures, accompanied by lists of related materials linking to reference documents available online. The Series contains individual lectures on a broad range of specific topics of international law and several series of lectures on core topics of international law. The series of lectures and related legal materials are intended to provide a more comprehensive educational resource for academic institutions and government training centres in developing countries. During the period under review, 54 lectures were recorded for the Lecture Series. In order to promote a broader geographical and linguistic representation of the recorded lectures and to record lecturers who are unable to travel to New York, the

Codification Division undertakes off-site recording sessions in various locations. Of the lectures delivered during the reporting period, 23 were recorded off-site.[8] The Historic Archives contains introductory notes by leading authorities, as well as procedural histories, related documents and archival audiovisual materials prepared by the Division on almost 100 legal instruments.[9] During the period in question, the Division added several translations of the introductory notes and procedural history notes and identified new instruments for inclusion in the Archives. The Research Library provides an extensive online library consisting of treaties, jurisprudence, publications, documents, scholarly writings and training materials, including the latest addition to the library, the *International Law Handbook: Collection of Instruments*, a four-volume publication of the Division.

22. Since its creation in 2008, the Audiovisual Library has been accessed by over 1.5 million users in 193 Member States and non-Member States. While it was created primarily for the benefit of lawyers in developing countries,[10] it continues to be accessed primarily by lawyers in developed countries. The limited number of users in developing countries is due to a lack of awareness of this resource and to the technology gap in terms of limited access to computers, electricity and reliable high-speed Internet. In order to improve access to lectures in the Lecture Series for users in developing countries without reliable high-speed Internet, the Codification Division has initiated the podcast project, which provides the lectures as audio that can be streamed or downloaded. The Division is aiming to make all of the lectures in the Lecture Series available as podcasts by the end of 2018.

D. International law training materials

23. The Codification Division researches, collects and prepares legal materials in hard copy, in consultation with the lecturers, for its international law training courses.[11] In addition, CD-ROMs and USB flash drives containing the training materials and legal publications of the Division and other international law materials are provided to facilitate electronic research for participants in developing countries with limited access to the Internet. The training materials are also made available on the websites of the respective training courses and on the website of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, free of charge for academic use.

24. As mentioned in paragraph 21, in 2017, the Codification Division finalized the preparation of the English edition of its publication, the *International Law Handbook: Collection of Instruments*. In addition to being used by the Division as study

[8] The 23 lectures were recorded at the seventy-seventh International Law Association Conference, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, at the National University of Singapore, at the Free University of Brussels and at the George Washington University Law School. Recording facilities were provided free of charge by the aforementioned institutions.

[9] Legal materials for the Historic Archives and the Lecture Series are provided in all official languages of the Organization.

[10] The Audiovisual Library has been accessed by approximately 101,000 users in Africa, 317,000 users in Asia-Pacific and 77,000 users in Latin America and the Caribbean.

[11] In 2017, the Codification Division prepared training materials for the International Law Fellowship Programme and the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. It wishes to express its appreciation to the American Society of International Law, Oxford University Press, Hart Publishing and Brill for the use of scholarly writings for academic purposes as part of the training materials provided to the participants in the courses.

[12] The Codification Division is now required to purchase its legal publications and other essential United Nations publications, including the Charter of the United Nations, for use in its training courses.

material for its training courses under the Programme of Assistance, the Handbook is intended for distribution to academic institutions and government training centres in developing countries to promote the teaching and dissemination of international law around the world. It is available, free of charge, from the websites of the Programme of Assistance and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law,[13] and it may be reproduced for academic purposes to further the teaching and dissemination of international law. The Handbook is intended to be used as a general work of reference. It comprises four books, as follows: Book One contains the Charter of the United Nations and the Statute of the International Court of Justice, as well as instruments relating to the law of treaties, subjects of international law, diplomatic and consular relations, international responsibility, the peaceful settlement of international disputes, international peace and security, international human rights law, as well as movement of persons and international migration law; Book Two contains instruments relating to the law of armed conflict, international criminal law, as well as disarmament and non-proliferation; Book Three contains instruments relating to the law of the sea, international environmental law and international watercourses; and Book Four contains instruments relating to international labour law, the law of cultural relations, as well as international trade and investment law. The Codification Division also continued its efforts towards the preparation of the Handbook in French and is exploring the possibility of cooperating with academic institutions for the preparation of the Handbook in other official languages of the United Nations. The preparation of the Handbook in all the official languages will depend on the availability of funds for that purpose.

E. Desktop publishing

25. In 2003, the Codification Division began using desktop publishing, on a voluntary basis and subject to available resources, to expedite the issuance of some of its legal publications and to make them available to the international legal community in a timely manner. By 2013, the Division had successfully eliminated the backlog of up to five years for several of its publications.[14] In 2014, it discontinued its desktop publishing because of a lack of resources (necessary materials and staff) following the abolition of a General Service post that year. Consequently, none of the publications listed in paragraph 41 of document A/68/521 were issued during the period from 2014 to 2016. In its resolution 71/139, the General Assembly once again expressed its appreciation for the desktop publishing initiative of the Division during the period from 2003 to 2013, which greatly enhanced the timely issuance of its legal publications, regretted that none of the publications listed in the report of the Secretary-General had been issued since 2014 and recommended that the necessary resources be made available to resume this successful initiative.[15] In 2017, the Division undertook a pilot project aimed at resuming its desktop publishing activities, resulting in the publication of *The Work of the International Law Commission* (9th edition) and the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook* (2013). Significant progress was also made on the publication of the next volume of the *Reports of International Arbitral Awards* (vol. XXXI) and of the next volume of the *Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the*

[13] Available at http://legal.un.org/poa/publications.html and http://legal.un.org/avl/handbook.html.

[14] The backlog was eliminated for the following publications: *United Nations Juridical Yearbook*; *United Nations Legislative Series*; *Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice*; *Reports of International Arbitral Awards*; and *The Work of the International Law Commission* (vols. 1 and 2).

[15] See also General Assembly resolutions 64/113 of 16 December 2009, 65/25 of 6 December 2010, 66/97 of 9 December 2011, 67/91 of 14 December 2012, 68/110 of 16 December 2013, 69/117 of 10 December 2014 and 70/116 of 14 December 2015.

International Court of Justice (2013-2017). The Division will continue to explore ways of sustaining such efforts into the next biennium, subject to the availability of resources.

26. The Codification Division also finalized the preparation of the aforementioned four-volume *International Law Handbook* in English, using desktop publishing funded on an exceptional basis through voluntary contributions. The Division will require additional voluntary contributions in order to finalize the preparation of the Handbook in all official languages of the Organization.

F. Dissemination

27. The dissemination of legal publications and information through the Internet and other electronic media is intended to supplement the limited number of hard copies, without prejudice to the unique value of printed materials for legal research and education, in particular for lawyers in developing countries with limited access to the Internet. The materials are provided free of charge on the Internet to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law (see annex).

G. Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea

28. Maria Emilynda Jeddahlyn Pia Benosa of the Philippines successfully completed the 2017 Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea in July 2017. Currently, there are insufficient funds for a standard award in 2018. Owing to insufficient funds, the General Assembly, in its resolution 71/257, authorized the Secretary-General, on an exceptional basis, to grant a modified award for 2017 with the available funding providing for the placement of a fellow in the Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs. The award was made for five months, without the standard placement at an institution of higher learning. The granting of an award for 2018 remains under consideration by Member States. The final cost of each fellowship depends on several highly variable factors, including the stipend rates applicable in the cities of the host institutions, currency exchange rates, airfare and the duration of the fellowship. Those factors lead to differences in fellowship costs from year to year, which can range from approximately $45,000 to $60,000, excluding the 13 per cent programme support costs and 15 per cent operational reserve (for fund balance, see para. 30).[16]

[16] The administrative assistance initially provided by the Codification Division in the 1980s and early 1990s gradually decreased following the establishment of a permanent institution within the Office of Legal Affairs, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, which is entrusted with matters related to the law of the sea, including technical capacity-building, to avoid duplication of work and to ensure the proper administration of the fellowship. In recent years, the fellowship has been administered solely by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea as part of its provision of technical capacity-building with respect to the law of the sea. Additional information on the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship will be provided in the annual report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, which will be considered under the agenda item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

III. Guidelines and recommendations regarding the implementation of the Programme of Assistance for the biennium 2018-2019

29. In 2018 and 2019, the Codification Division plans to carry out the activities under the Programme of Assistance in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (see A/71/432, sect. III) and approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/139.

30. Regarding the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship, the current fund balance available for disbursement, taking into account programme support costs, is estimated to be approximately $38,000, which may not be sufficient to award a standard fellowship for 2018 unless additional voluntary contributions are received by November 2017.

IV. Administrative and financial implications of the Programme of Assistance

A. During 2017

31. In its resolution 71/139, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to carry out, in 2017, the International Law Fellowship Programme and the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean and to continue to develop the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, to be financed from provisions in the regular budget, as well as, when necessary, from voluntary contributions.

32. Regarding the funding provided for the Programme of Assistance, a total of $2,267,000 was included in the regular budget for the biennium 2016-2017 under section 8, Legal affairs, subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, for the International Law Fellowship Programme, the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively, and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law.

33. The General Assembly reiterated its request to Member States and interested organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions towards the financing of the Programme of Assistance or to otherwise assist in its implementation and possible expansion. Accordingly, on 1 March 2017, a note verbale was sent to Member States to draw their attention to resolution 71/139.

34. Since the previous report, voluntary contributions have been received for the activities under the Programme of Assistance as follows: (a) from Panama ($1,500) and Qatar ($3,000); (b) for the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, from China ($20,000), Czechia ($1,923), Ireland ($5,000), Italy ($5,800) and Switzerland ($19,975); (c) for the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Africa, from China ($10,000); and (d) for the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific, from China ($10,000); (e) for the United Nations International Law Fellowship Programme from Ireland ($5,000); and (f) for the *International Law Handbook*, from Norway ($17,180).

35. Regarding the Regional Course in International Law for Africa, ECA provided a seminar room, offices, equipment and administrative assistance, as well as transportation for lecturers, participants and Codification Division staff.

36. Regarding the Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Government of Chile provided catering for the opening ceremony, hosted a closing ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and organized a cultural visit. ECLAC provided seminar rooms, offices, equipment and administrative and operational assistance.

37. In addition, publications (electronic and/or hard copy) were provided free of charge to the participants in the various training courses by the following entities: the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Criminal Court, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the University of Pretoria and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand. Various entities, publishers and law journals granted permission to include scholarly articles free of charge in the study materials provided to the participants in the training courses (see para. 23).

Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Fellowship on the Law of the Sea

38. Since the previous report, contributions to the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Fellowship on the Law of the Sea have been received from the following States: Monaco ($16,290) and Sri Lanka ($10,000).

B. During the biennium 2018-2019

39. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/139, resources totalling $2,259,600 have been proposed in the regular budget for the biennium 2018-2019 under section 8, Legal affairs, subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, for the International Law Fellowship Programme, the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean and for the continuation and further development of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law.

1. International Law Fellowship Programme and United Nations Regional Courses in International Law

40. The resources included in the proposed programme budget would provide for the International Law Fellowship Programme in 2018 and 2019 and for the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, to be conducted in 2018 and 2019 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/139. The resources would provide fellowships (covering travel, accommodation, health insurance, study materials and a stipend for living expenses) for a minimum of 20 lawyers from developing countries and countries with emerging economies to attend each of the training courses. Any additional participants would receive fellowships based on voluntary contributions or would be admitted on a self-funded basis.

2. United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law

41. The resources included in the proposed programme budget reflect the proposed conversion of two positions (one Legal Officer (P-3), one Video Editing Assistant (General Service (Other level))) that were previously funded from general temporary assistance and that are required to ensure the continuation and further development of the Lecture Series of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law in 2018 and 2019.

42. The programme budget would also be used for the travel of staff to conduct off-site recordings of numerous lectures at various locations around the world. Such recordings are undertaken to promote broader geographical and linguistic

representation of the recorded lectures and to record lecturers who are unable to travel to New York.

43. In addition, the resources would be used to obtain necessary technical supplies and materials, and for the digitization of some historical audio and film recordings.

44. Extrabudgetary resources would be utilized to promote greater access to the Audiovisual Library in developing countries and to develop the historic archives of the Audiovisual Library (including staff and digitization of additional audiovisual materials).

45. The Secretary-General would continue, if the General Assembly so decides, to request voluntary and in-kind contributions to the Programme of Assistance, in particular to provide for additional fellowships for the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law, the preparation of the Handbook in additional languages and the continuation and further development of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law.

V. Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

A. Membership

46. The General Assembly, by its resolution 70/116, appointed the following 25 Member States as members of the Advisory Committee for the period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2019: Argentina, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Czechia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, the Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Uruguay.

B. Consideration of the report of the Secretary-General by the Advisory Committee at its fifty-second session

47. The fifty-second session of the Advisory Committee, held on 3 October 2017, was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations, Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee.

48. The Director of the Codification Division, Huw Llewellyn, served as Acting Secretary of the Advisory Committee.

49. The following members of the Advisory Committee were present on 3 October: Argentina, Canada, Cyprus, Czechia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, the Sudan, the United States of America and Uruguay. The Netherlands and Thailand attended the meeting as observers in their capacity as host countries for the International Law Fellowship Programme and the Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific, respectively.

50. The Acting Secretary of the Advisory Committee made a statement in which he updated the information contained in the draft report and drew attention to the continuing efforts to strengthen the activities under the Programme of Assistance. He emphasized that, as a result of the funding provided to the Programme under the regular budget for the biennium 2016-2017, the Codification Division had been able to organize the Regional Courses in International Law in all three regions (Africa,

Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia-Pacific) in both years of the biennium. Moreover, the Division had been able to substantially increase the content of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, which had been accessed by a significant number of new users. In addition, the Acting Secretary drew attention to the publication of the English version of the *International Law Handbook* and the progress made in the preparation of the French version, both of which would be used for the training courses under the Programme and for distribution to academic institutions and government training centres in developing countries. He also informed the members about the ongoing work to podcast all lectures available on the Audiovisual Library of International Law so as to make them more accessible in regions of the world where high-speed Internet was unavailable or unreliable. That effort would be complete by the end of 2018.

51. The Advisory Committee commended the Codification Division for its efforts in implementing and further strengthening the activities under the Programme of Assistance and expressed its appreciation for the preparation of the *International Law Handbook*. In that regard, it was noted that the preparation of that publication depended on voluntary contributions.

Annex

Websites maintained by the Codification Division

Website	*Uniform resource locator*
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law	www.un.org/law/programmeofassistance
International Law Fellowship Programme	www.un.org/law/ilfp
United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean	www.un.org/law/rcil
United Nations International Law Seminar for Arab States	http://legal.un.org/poa/seminar.html
United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law	www.un.org/law/avl
United Nations legal publications portal	http://legal.un.org/cod/publications.shtml
Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs	http://legal.un.org/repertory
United Nations Juridical Yearbook	http://legal.un.org/unjuridicalyearbook
Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice	http://legal.un.org/icjsummaries
Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the Permanent Court of International Justice	http://legal.un.org/PCIJsummaries
Reports of International Arbitral Awards	http://legal.un.org/riaa
United Nations Legislative Series	http://legal.un.org/legislativeseries
Codification and Progressive Development of International Law	http://legal.un.org/cod
Sixth Committee of the General Assembly	www.un.org/en/ga/sixth
International Law Commission	http://legal.un.org/ilc
Diplomatic conferences (official records of proceedings)	http://legal.un.org/diplomaticconferences
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	www.un.org/law/icc
Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization	http://legal.un.org/committees/charter
Ad Hoc Committee on Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission	http://legal.un.org/committees/criminal_accountability
Ad Hoc Committee on the Administration of Justice at the United Nations	http://legal.un.org/committees/admin_of_justice

Website	*Uniform resource locator*
Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996	http://legal.un.org/committees/terrorism
Ad Hoc Committee on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property	http://legal.un.org/committees/immunities
Ad Hoc Committee on an International Convention against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings	http://legal.un.org/committees/cloning
Ad Hoc Committee on the Scope of Legal Protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel	http://legal.un.org/committees/safety_convention